

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: FURTHER OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF GREECE'S PARTICIPATION
IN NATO AND U. S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE

REF: ATHENS 11406

OPPOSITION LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S CRITICISM OF GREECE'S
PARTICIPATION IN NATO, DURING PARILIMENTARY DISCUSSION OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT ON DECEMBER 15, SPARKED AN
ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS NOT COVERED
IN THE REFTEL. PAPANDREOU ALLEGED THAT ACCORDING TO "RELIABLE
SOURCES" THE GOG AGREES EVENTUALLY TO PLACE ALL OF GREECE'S
ARMED FORCES UNDER NATO COMMAND AND NOT JUST THE FIRST ARMY AS WAS
THE CASE IN THE PAST. THIS, SAID PAPANDREOU, WOULD MAKE DEFENSE
AGAINST A TURKISH ATTACK IMPOSSIBLE. CARAMANLIS INTERJECTED THAT
THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THE GOG SEEKS WITH NATO INVOLVES
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MAINTAINING NATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES.
PAPANDREOU EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS REASSURANCE
ON THE PART OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. RELATIONS WITH NATO AND U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE
WERE SUBJECTS ALL THE OTHER OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS ALSO
TOUCHED UPON IN THEIR STATEMENTS ON DECEMBER 16. ALL THE OPPOSITION

SPOKESMEN WERE CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO NATO AND U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE. ONLY THE SPEAKER FOR THE FAR RIGHT NEW CAMP (ITS PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE THEOTOKIS) CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE MILITARY WING OF NATO AND NOT CULTIVATING CLOSER TIES WITH NATO AND THE U.S. THEOTOKIS WENT ON TO SAY THAT GREECE SHOULD SEEK SOLUTIONS TO ITS FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS IN A NATO FRAMEWORK.

3. UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UDC) LEADER JOHN ZIGHDIS STATED THAT IN REALITY GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO'S MILITARY WING MEANT OPERATION OF U.S. MILITARY BASES IN GREECE AND THAT ALL OTHER POINTS ARE SECONDARY. THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST STEP, HE SAID, IN REACTING TO THE SITUATION CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO ABOLISH THE BASES. THIS WOULD HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON THE U.S. BECAUSE OF GREECE'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, ESPECIALLY OF CRETE AND THE OTHER ISLANDS. IF WE TOLD THE U.S., HE MAINTAINED, EITHER GET THE TURKS OUT OF CYPRUS OR LOSE CRETE AND YOUR OTHER BASES, THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, BECAUSE THE U.S. CANNOT MAINTAIN THE SIXTH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WITHOUT THEM. ZIGHDIS CONCLUDED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DENOUNCE THE U.S. BASES HAD LED TURKEY TO MAKE EVER GROWING DEMANDS IN CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN.

4. FORMER UDC LEADER (AND NOW HONORARY PRESIDENT) GEORGE MAVROS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO CRITICIZED THE POLICIES OF THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO NATO. UNLESS NATO COMMITS ITSELF TO TAKE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF GREECE IN THE EVENT OF A TURKISH THREAT, MAVROS STATED, A RETURN TO NATO'S MILITARY WING WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO GREECE'S UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO TURKISH EXPANSIONISM. MAVROS CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEFEND THE U.S. AGAINST THE ACCUSATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT YEARS IN GREECE. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE, MAVROS SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CHARACTERIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIALING OF THE U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) AS A TRAP WHICH COULD BE USED TO ASSURE APPROVAL OF THE U.S.-TURKISH DCA, AND THIS WAS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE.

5. SPEAKING FOR THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA), ILIAS ILIOU COMMENTED THAT THE NATO POWERS PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNIQUE GAVE

GREECE NO CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM SINCE IT CALLED FOR EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE U.S.-TURKISH DCA. ILIOU SAID THAT NATO DOES NOT INTEND TO DEFEND GREECE AGAINST TURKEY, NOR TO SUPPORT GREECE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, YET GREECE'S RETURN TO NATO IS UNDERWAY. HE POINTED TO GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO'S

LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AS PROOF OF HIS CLAIM.

6. FINALLY, COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR LEADER LEONIDAS KYRKOS STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF SEEKING TO RETURN TO NATO'S MILITARY WING HAS DISARMED GREECE DIPLOMATICALLY IN OTHER AREAS. KYRKOS DEMANDED THAT OPERATIONS AT U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES BE HALTED AS LONG AS THERE IS A DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY OVER THE AEGEAN.

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